

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Technology Center: 1700

Application No.: 10/721,878
Examiner: REDDING, D.A.
Art Unit: 1744

AMENDMENT

Please amend the pending application in accordance with the following particulars.

In the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application and is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dust collecting unit for collecting dirt particles contained in the suction air stream, wherein the suction air stream passing through the dust collecting unit into the electric blower flows in an approximately linear path; and

a dust removing unit for removing dirt particles adhered to the dust collecting unit

wherein the dust removing unit is disposed on said linear path, and allows the suction air stream to pass therethrough, and

wherein the dust removing unit has a member acting on the dust collecting unit, and the member is detachably connected to the dust removing unit.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dust collecting unit having a hard anchor part and a dust collecting part for collecting dirt particles from the suction air stream;

a dust collecting chamber containing the dust collecting unit, wherein the dust collecting unit is held in the dust collecting chamber by the hard anchor part; and

a dust removing unit for removing dirt particles adhered to the dust collecting unit,

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wherein the dust removing unit is disposed on a linear path in which the suction stream passes through the dust collecting unit into the electric blower, and allows the suction air stream to pass therethrough, and

wherein the dust removing unit has a member acting on the dust collecting unit, and the member is detachably connected to the dust removing unit.

Claim 3 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 2, wherein the dust removing unit acts on the dust collecting part.

Claim 4 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 3, wherein the dust removing unit is installed in the dust collecting chamber.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 3, wherein the dust collecting part is made of a soft material.

Claim 8 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 3, wherein the dust collecting part has a polyhedral configuration when expanded by the suction air stream, and the dust removing unit removes dirt particles adhered to at least one surface of the dust collecting part.

Claim 9 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 3, further comprising an electric blower chamber containing the electric blower, wherein the electric blower

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chamber communicates with the dust collecting chamber through a communication hole and the dust removing unit is disposed adjacent to the communication hole.

Claim 10 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 9, wherein the dust removing unit is disposed facing the communication hole.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original). A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a main body incorporating therein an electric blower for generating a suction air stream; a dust collecting unit for collecting dirt particles contained in the suction air stream; a dust removing unit for removing dirt particles adhered to the dust collecting unit; and an indication unit including a light display unit indicating an operation state of the dust removing unit,

wherein at least one portion of the main body is transparent or translucent so that a user can see the indication unit.

Claim 13 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein the light display unit is disposed on a vibrating member of the dust removing unit.

Claim 14 (Original). The vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein the light display unit includes a light emitter and a diffuser diffusing light of the light emitter, the diffuser being disposed on a vibrating member of the dust removing unit.

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Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein the dust removing unit has a plurality of air permeable openings of a grid shape.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The vacuum cleaner of claim 2, wherein the dust removing unit has a plurality of air permeable openings of a grid shape.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein the dust removing unit has a plurality of air permeable openings of a grid shape.